



# NEWS RELEASE

**Public Affairs Office  
Fort Riley, KS 66442  
Telephone (785) 239-3033/3410 FAX (785) 239-2592  
After Hours (785) 239-2222  
E-mail: [stephanie.perrin@riley.army.mil](mailto:stephanie.perrin@riley.army.mil) or  
[skidmord@riley.army.mil](mailto:skidmord@riley.army.mil)  
[www.riley.army.mil](http://www.riley.army.mil)**



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT  
Stephanie Perrin, Assistant Media Relations Officer (785) 239-3033

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## **POST, OTHERS BID 'FAREWELL'**

Fort Riley said farewell to about 300 Soldiers taking part in a ceremony Aug. 14 at King Field House.

The Soldiers are assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, and the 1st Maintenance Company. They will deploy to Iraq for about one year to provide maintenance and logistics support to Coalition forces.

This is the second deployment to Iraq for each company.

Col. Kevin O'Connell, commander of the Division Support Command, 1st Infantry Division, praised the gathered Soldiers for the role they will play in giving other people in the world the opportunity to achieve what America and other countries already have – democracy.

"The 541st (CSSB) was notified last fall they were going back within 2 kilometers of their last deployment (site)," O'Connell told the audience filling bleachers inside the field house. From that time on they trained in earnest, he said. Now, "they are thoroughly prepared to deploy and to provide world-class logistical support."

O'Connell thanked the Soldiers' families for the sacrifice they are making with their Soldiers' deployment. He assured them, "Your Soldier will make a difference" in winning the Global War on Terrorism.

Lt. Col. Howard Merritt, battalion commander, told everyone that the Soldiers of the 541st CSSB and 1st Maint. Co. have a reputation for excelling at everything they do. "They have a proven track record," he said.

To the Soldiers, he acknowledged his belief that, "because of your true professionalism, there is no doubt you will get the job done. Remember our motto and be prepared to set the pace," he urged.